

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1017

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Requesting railroad companies to reconsider certain corporate policies with regard to unit trains.

WHEREAS, the American rail system is and has been for many years grossly undercapitalized; and

WHEREAS, a primary result of this undercapitalization has been the curtailment of rail services to rural areas with a subsequent devastating impact on small towns and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, corporate policies favoring unit trains have had a chilling effect on local rail service and have unfairly discriminated in favor of a handful of big players; and

WHEREAS, railroads, with foresight and goodwill, could refine their policies on unit trains to provide a degree of flexibility and innovation which could lessen the negative effect on regional services and still provide economic benefits to the rail lines:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-third Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislature encourage all rail companies to reevaluate their unit train policies and, at a minimum, to provide that when two or three grain elevators are located on the same rail line and are served by the same rail carrier, and the distance between the two elevators farthest apart does not exceed forty miles by rail, and the elevators tender shipments of not less than one hundred eight rail cars on the same day on a single bill of lading, with no fewer than twenty-seven rail cars originating from any one of the elevators, at the election of the elevators the shipments shall be combined and considered as a single one-hundred-eight-car shipment from a single loading station for the calculation of rates, rail car supply, and for all other purposes in contractual arrangements with the rail carrier.

Adopted by the House of Representatives,
Concurred in by the Senate,

March 16, 1998
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Rex Hagg
Speaker of the House

Karen Gerdes
Chief Clerk of the House

Carole Hillard
President of the Senate

Patricia Adam
Secretary of the Senate